

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-02 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5612
INFO USUN NEW YORK 1685
AMEMBASSY DACCA
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AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 0882

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNHRC, SHUM, PGOV PK US
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN PAKISTAN -- CONVERSATION WITH A.K.
BROHI

1. AMBASSADOR MET JAN 25 WITH A.K. BROHI, A MEMBER OF GENERAL ZIA'S INNER CIRCLE OF ADVISERS, AND RAISED WITH HIM USG CONCERNS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS EVERYWHERE, AND SPECIFICALLY IN PAKISTAN. AMB REFERRED TO HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATE OF UNION MESSAGE, WITH WHICH BROHI WAS FAMILIAR, AND TO UPCOMING MEETING OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN GENEVA, WHICH BROHI SAID WOULD BE ATTENDED BY QUALIFIED GOP OFFICIAL (SEPTEL).

2. AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED SOLID BASIS OF SUPPORT IN AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR USG CONCERNS AND ACTIONS IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. HE SAID SITUATION IN PAKISTAN AT PRESENT CAUSED NO SERIOUS DISAGREEMENTS WITH GOP, BUT THAT THERE WAS HIGH DEGREE OF INTEREST IN USG IN FOLLOWING EVENTS

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CLOSELY. EMBASSY IS CHARGED
WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTINUING REPORTING, INCLUDING ON THE
NUMBER OF PERSONS UNDER PREVENTIVE DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL, AND
ON PROGRESS TOWARD A RETURN TO ELECTED DEMOCRACY. IF ELECTIONS
ARE DELAYED FOR SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD, IF NUMBER OF DETAINEES DOES
NOT DIMINISH, OR INCREASES, THERE WOULD BE HEIGHTENED USG
CONCERN. PERIODIC REPORTS TO CONGRESS ARE REQUIRED, AND ONE IS

UNDER PREPARATION NOW; IN DUE COURSE IT WOULD BE PUBLISHED, AS WERE PREVIOUS REPORTS. AMBASSADOR WANTED BROHI TO KNOW OF CLOSE ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

3. BROHI RECALLED HIS PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR ON SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND REITERATED HIS ADMIRATION FOR FIRM STAND BY U.S. ADMINISTRATION. HE SAID HE AND OTHERS IN GOP WOULD DO WHAT THEY COULD ABOUT SITUATION IN PAKISTAN, WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS MOVING IN RIGHT DIRECTION AFTER EXCESSES OF BHUTTO ERA. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD ALSO BE TALKING SHORTLY WITH HIGH LEVEL OF MFA TO REITERATE BASIC ELEMENTS OF U.S. STAND AND TO CALL ATTENTION TO POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE ADVERSE USG REACTION IF PRESENT FAVORABLE TRENDS SHOULD BE REVERSED.

4. BROHI HAS JUST BEEN NAMED A MEMBER OF NEWLY FORMED ADVISORY COUNCIL, THE TOP CIVILIAN GOVERNING BODY. HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR JUSTICE MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND IS TAKING VERY ACTIVE ROLE AS DE FACTO MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THOSE AREAS. HE IS EMINENT JURIST, WAS AMBASSADOR TO INDIA IN EARLY 1960'S, AND IS CLOSE PERSONAL ASSOCIATE OF GEN. ZIA. DURING NOV

AND DEC, HE WAS IN CHARGE OF PAKISTAN'S MISSION TO UNGA. THOSE USG OFFICIALS WHO MET HIM DURING HIS STAY IN U.S. DURING UNGA WILL KNOW OF HIS SINCERE PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS.
HUMMEL

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